

UNCLASSIFIED
Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06606

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Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-05 AID-05
TRSE-00 /084 W

-----117553 062245Z /73

R 061415Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6606

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, SHUM, PINT, PGOV (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), AR
SUBJECT: TODMAN MEETING WITH ARGENTINE POLITICIANS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6127

1. AT FIVE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 14,
MR. TODMAN MET WITH LEADERS AND FORMER
LEADERS OF THE JUSTICIALISTA, RADICAL AND
POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTIES, AS WELL AS THREE
MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT.
LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS UNION CHIEF JUAN
TACONE MADE AN IMPASSIONED PRESENTATION -
REGARDING THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ARGENTINE
WAGE EARNERS, BUT POLITICAL LEADERS MEETING
WITH MR. TODMAN GAVE SOBER AND REFLECTIVE
COMMENTS WHICH EXPRESSED SURPRISING UNANIMITY,
IN VIEW OF THE FIERCE INTERPARTY BATTLES THAT
HAVE BEEN WAGED IN ARGENTINA'S FAIRLY RECENT PAST.

2. THERE WAS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

K 009

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POLITICAL LEADERS' FEELING THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIPE FOR ELECTIONS HERE. ALTHOUGH MORE THAN ONE SPEAKER REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SHOULD RULE FOR THE NEXT 12-16 YEARS, NO ONE EXPRESSED THE IDEA OF A PARTICULAR DATE FOR ELECTIONS--EVEN SOMETHING IN THE DISTANT FUTURE. WHAT THESE POLITICANS DID WANT WAS LEGALITY FOR THEIR PARTIES TO OPERATE IN SOME WAY IN POLITICS AND INCLUSION OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF ITS RULE AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FUTURE.

3. THERE SEEMED SOME AMBIGUITY IN THE POSITION OF THESE POLITICAL LEADERS WITH REGARD TO THE US ROLE IN SPEAKING OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA. SEVERAL SPEAKERS AFFIRMED THE NECESSITY OF OUR SPEAKING OUT AND, IN SOME RATHER DISTANT WAY AFFIRMED THAT THESE DECLARATIONS WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT UPON ARGENTINA'S LEADERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY MADE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO APPEAR TO BE INTERVENING IN ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. US PRESSURE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD NOT PRODUCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT THE US DESIRES. US INTERFERENCE WITH LOANS TO ARGENTINA IN THE IFI'S WOULD ONLY HAMPER NEEDED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE WOULD HAVE TO SPRING FROM ARGENTINE INITIATIVE.
HIGGINS

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